

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 28, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-7 and 14 are canceled. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment merely cancels the rejected claims to place the application in condition for allowance; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner in the June 11, 2008 and November 28, 2008 Office Actions that Claims 8-13 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP07-026910 to Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,081,858 to Ito et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,134,939 to Shamshidov et al. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Ito, further in view of Shamshidov (as applied to claim 1), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,553,416 to Sudoh et al. or JP2001-152173 to Matsumoto. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Ito, further in view of Shamshidov (as applied to claim 1), and further in view of JP57-179422 to Ikeda. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Ito, further in view of Shamshidov (as applied to claim 1), and further in view of JP63-75505 to Toyota. To the extent the rejections remain applicable to the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as follows.

However, as Claims 1-7 and 14 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit the rejections are rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

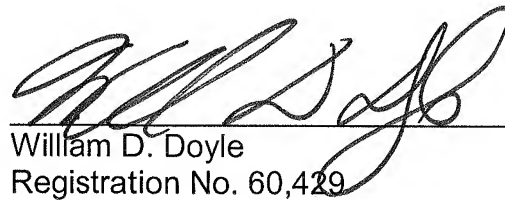
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 8-13, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 025416-00031.**

Respectfully submitted,



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